

Message Text

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65

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 AID-05 TRSE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SCSE-00

PER-03 EUR-12 /054 W

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O 181318Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 428

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MANILA 14396

DEPT PASS TREASURY AND AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CASC, RP

SUBJ: OVERDUE AIRCRAFT

REF: MANILA 14377

1. SEARCH EFFORT FOR MISSING AIRCRAFT HAS CONTINUED NEGATIVE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18. WEATHER HAS STILL NOT PERMITTED EFFECTIVE AIR SEARCH IN MOUNTAINE RIDGES WHICH ARE PRIMARY PROBABILITIES OF CRASH SITE. CLOUD DECK HAS NEVER LIFTED ABOVE THREE THOUSAND FOOT LEVEL.

2. DURING SEPTEMBER 18 ACTION, TWO U.S. NAVY HELICOPTERS, ONE USAF HELICOPTER AND ONE USAF C-130 SEARCH PLANE WERE EMPLOYED IN ADDITION TO PHILIPPINE ASSETS. EFFECTIVENESS OF ALL THESE AIRCRAFT LIMITED BY HEAVY CLOUD LAYER AND BY ABSENCE ANY SUSTAINED ELT BEEPER TRANSMISSIONS.

3. GROUND PARTIES HAVE CONTINUED TO RUN SYSTEMATIC UNCLASSIFIED

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SEARCHES OF ASSIGNED TERRITORIES WITHOUT RESULT. RANGER

PARTIES HAVE BEEN AIRLIFTED AS HIGH AS CLOUD COVER WILL PERMIT, AND INSTRUCTED TO MOVE TOWARDS RIDGES. A COMBINED GERMAN-AMERICAN-NEGRITO TEAM OF MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS WAS INSUTED ON SLOPES OF ONE OF POSSIBLE RIDGE AREAS.

4. IN AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 18, PHILIPPINE ARMY BEGAN TO DEPLOY ADDITIONAL TROOPS (THEY STATE NUMBER-PROGRAMMED AS 2000 RPT 2000) INTO BASE CAMPS FOR SUSTAINED OPERATIONS IN GROUND SEARCH. BOTH GROUND AND AIR OPERATIONS ARE SCHEDULED AGAIN FOR SEPTEMBER 19, WITH NO RPT NO PROMISE OF IMPROVED WEATHER. FATIGUE IS BEGINNING TO REINFORCE FRUSTRATION AMONG PRIMARY MEMBERS OF SEARCH GROUP.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, RESCUE OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA14396
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760353-0645
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760945/aaaabmtb.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 14377
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vandyklc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OVERDUE AIRCRAFT
TAGS: EAIR, CASC, PORS, RP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006